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CASE OF APOPLEXY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Mrs. C——y, aged 68, rather plethoric and corpulent, has always enjoyed good health, excepting the last two or three months, when she complained of numbness and coldness of the left superior and inferior extremities.

Nov. 20th, 1839, Mrs. C. had an attack of apoplexy. I saw her in about two hours after the attack; found her nearly speechless, and the left half of the body paralysis. She [illegible] applied the right hand to the right side of the head, complaining [illegible] distress in that region. She was quite comatose, [illegible] appeared to lie in a profound sleep; the [illegible] for water, and put out the tongue when [illegible] and rather convulsive.

The patient [illegible] a brisk cathartic was given, assisted by [illegible] the head, and revulsives to the feet and ankles.

21st, nine o'clock, A. M. Patient [illegible] worse, notwithstanding the cathartic had operated freely, and a large loss of blood from the arm during the night, in consequence of the bandage becoming loose. At six o'clock, P. M., pulse very strong and full, complete hemiplegia, breathing laborious. Bled again about forty ounces before the breathing or pulse was affected. [illegible] to the right side of the head, gave another cathartic, assisted by injections.

22d. Patient very much worse; coma so great that she could not be roused, breathing stertorous, pulse flagging, pupil insensible to light, and the evacuations involuntary. 24th. Patient died.

Inspection—in the presence of, and assisted by, my students. The skull [illegible] after the usual manner. The membranes healthy; the exterior [illegible] brain appeared natural, excepting a great degree of hardness, which extended throughout its whole substance. The dissections were commenced by removing the left hemisphere by successive slices, until [illegible] level with the corpus callosum. An opening was made into the [illegible], and the parts in its cavity brought to view, perfectly healthy, excepting a degree of hardness. The right hemisphere was managed in the same [illegible] the appearance of the ventricle was entirely different; its cavity [illegible] exceeded with dark coagulated blood, the size of a hen's egg. [illegible] the blood was removed, the interior of the cavity presented [illegible] color and consistence. The

color and softening of the brain extended in every direction from the cavity of the ventricle; but much less, towards the septum lucidum. The following bodies, in the cavity of the ventricle, had entirely lost their consistence, and in part their shape, by the extensive ramollissement; viz., the lateral portion of the fornix, corpus striatum, hippocampus major and minor, and dipping down into the fourth ventricle and destroying, in part, the thalamus opticus.

In making transverse and longitudinal sections of the right side of the brain, after the minute examination was made, the ramollisement and yellow color could, in many places, be traced to the cortical portion of the brain. No further examination made. T. HAYNES.

Concord, N. H., January, 1840.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE MIND ON PHYSICAL ORGANIZATION.

BY JOHN CLOUGH, M.D., NEW IPSWICH, N. H.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

An extraordinary discov[illegible] innovation of any kind, seems to electrify the world, and [illegible] mind is at once thrown into violent commotion, evincing in a st[illegible] mann[illegible] dissimilar and paradoxical composition of the human mind. Like [illegible] dulum of a clock without a regulator, it is never allowed to vi[illegible] th[illegible] ounds of utility, but is constantly driven at r[illegible] is produced and the whole affair, more frequentl[illegible] herw[illegible] to a complete state of rest.

In those points which [illegible] clearly demonstrated, but must inevitably remain in obscurity, man delights to wander. By his vivid imagination he creates a little world to himself; his fancy so enormously magnifies his vision, that he adopts such theories as best suit himself, and by strong natural prejudi[illegible] rges them upon the world with an ardor and enthusiasm just in pro[illegible] on as th[illegible] ubject may be ridiculous. However absurd any new doctrine may appe[illegible] however it may shock and disgust rational beings, it will have its followers and its advocates; and this may fairly be considered the great and principal cause of every new wonder which comes before the world. The public mind, in its present unenlightened condition, demands it, and proffers a reward to the innovator infinitely beyond what can b[illegible] realized fr[illegible] any honorable avocation. The bloated and overgrown theorist believ[illegible] or affects to believe, that no one but himself is right, however at variance [illegible] may be with the generally received opinions of the most candid and scientific men.

Take a retrospective view, and go back in thought [illegible] period when history commenced, and you will find man has ever delighted in the discovery of new and fanciful theories, and to traverse the boundless labyrinth of speculation. New [illegible] are built upon long ago demolished ones, and new doctrin[illegible] continually [illegible]minating in the imaginary views of those who have feasted bountifully upon the preju-

dices of antiquity, and whose crooked reason and distorted judgment have ever delighted to bask in the sunshine of aerial dreams.

It will not, perhaps, be entirely uninteresting to allude to the effects of *magic, incantation, amulets, and holy relics.* These had their influence in an age of extreme ignorance and superstition—when the darkness which shrouded the human mind was so thick that it could be even felt. The charming of newly made wounds was effected by repeating, as it was said, some particular words backwards. Amulets were provided by the people to render themselves invulnerable to disease, and to ward off the tormenting influences of witches; and the relics of holy men were made sacred for the purpose of curing the most inveterate diseases. Anything which pertained to these holy departed worthies, which, by association, could be made to produce strong excitement, was considered an agent in working the wonderful effect. The sick were sometimes removed to the tombs of these departed saints, and by touching only the finger-nail or the bone of a finger, a cure would be effected. This latter mode had an additional influence upon such subjects in restoring them to health. Being in the midst of the consecrated dead, they were endued with feelings of reverential awe, which added solemnity to the farce, and made the deception operate more effectually.

In connection with this, I cannot omit to mention a circumstance which occurred in this town (New Ipswich), not thirty years since, and similar occurrences probably occurred in many other towns in New England. This was disinterring a human body, which belonged to a family all strongly predisposed to consumption, for the purpose of removing the heart, which was burned, the ashes of which were considered a sovereign remedy to those of the family who were still living, and might be afflicted with the same disease. This only illustrates the fact that those elements of character which held such a magic sway over the minds of men in ancient times, have not ceased altogether to influence the community in our comparatively enlightened day.

I cannot pass over this part of the subject without a brief notice of *animal magnetism*, and the deception practised by Perkins with his *metallic tractors.* To give only a synopsis of the proceedings and results of Mesmer and his disciples, would occupy too much time. I need only say that it illustrates, in a remarkable manner, the wonderful influence of the imagination. This subject has been so much discussed before the public of late, that all have some knowledge of it, and are also acquainted with the fact that Dr. Franklin and others were successful in discovering the imposition which was practised on the nervous and ignorant. Although the fraud practised by Mesmer and others was so completely exposed, and so palpably proved to be a mere chimera of the imagination, fostered by ignorance and superstition, we see Perkins coming forth only about fifteen years after the introduction of Mesmer's project, with a new discovery, which, he alleged, would supersede anything yet offered to the public in healing diseases, and for which he not only received a patent with royal letters, but a large donation from government.

The plan of Perkins was to use *metallic tractors*, which were to be

pointed at the diseased part, and drawn gradually over it, and under the magnetic power of these *tractors* the disease would be subdued. This pretended discovery had the semblance of plausibility, on account of its having been brought before the public at the time when Galvani had just made his discovery, and which so startled the scientific world, in its effects upon the nervous system of dead bodies. Wonderful and astonishing effects were produced by the metallic tractors; diseases of the most inveterate kind yielded to their influence. Pamphlets were published, setting forth the wonder-working influence of this plan in curing diseases—newspapers teemed with certificates carrying evidence to the same effect. In fine, the people, everywhere, were enraptured with it; but like other schemes of this kind, it has now long been consigned to the tomb of all the Capulets. The farce was completely detected by Dr. Haygarth, who proposed that *wooden tractors* should be constructed and painted so as to resemble the metallic, and applied in the same manner. Accordingly several individuals were selected who were suffering from chronic diseases, and who were assured that their cases would yield to the *tractors*, which, on experiment, proved true. Others were constructed of lead, &c., and whenever benefit was really expected, it was alike accomplished with the *wooden*, *leaden* or *metallic tractors*.

As we approach our own time, we see the same influences operating on the community, though in some respects in a modified manner, according as the people are better educated and more enlightened. Those elements of mind which conduce to this state of things appear to be original in man's constitution. A seeking after something which does not exist, is a characteristic of man; and so strong is his hope of obtaining it, that he is ready to forego anything for the sake of an experiment. We see this verified even now in the use of patent medicines, with their flaming advertisements—in the homœopathic system, which is identical with Mesmerism and Perkinsism; and last, though not least, in Grahamism. People are gravely told that their stomachs are so delicate that they can digest only such and such articles of food; and that other kinds, which they have eaten all their lives without injury, produce unpleasant symptoms and diseases which are minutely detailed. In this way, persons who before scarcely knew they had a stomach, are soon brought to experience all the symptoms in the exact order in which they were related. Thus diseases are really produced by taking certain kinds of food, aided by the mind, and are as effectually cured in the same way.

In taking this partial view of what has passed, we should be instructed not to follow too hastily any new doctrine, however pure and real it may seem to our limited experience. Its rays may illuminate our path, but be scarcely less delusive to us than the empty ignis fatuus is to the bewildered traveller.

The influence of imagination, in aiding the happy effects of medicine in curing disease, should not, however, receive our unqualified censure. Too many facts are before us, and many others might be adduced, to show what I hope has already been proved. The influence of the

imagination has indeed wrought many wonderful and important changes in the nervous and vascular systems, independent of those medicines which are considered specifics. For instance, bread pills have been known to operate as a cathartic, when given with a confident assurance that they would operate as such.

How ought we to act, then, if such surprising effects are produced by *inert* remedies through the action of the mind, when we administer *real* medicines? Shall we allow the medicine to produce only its mechanical effects, without calling into aid the strong powers of the imagination; or shall we inspire the mind with all reasonable hope, combined with this the proper use of medicines, to effect our object? It is well known by many, that the same medicine has dissimilar effects on the same individual, in the same disease, when administered by different individuals. Here are lessons to be learned by the young practitioner who, with high hopes, goes forth into the world to do his great work upon the stage of action.

During the siege of Broda, in 1625, the soldiers were dreadfully afflicted with the scurvy. The Prince of Orange hearing of their distress, and fearing unfavorable consequences might result, hit upon an expedient to effect a cure. He sent letters, accompanied with a few phials of medicine, which he promised would afford the most speedy and happy relief. This information was made public, and all were eager to use the new medicine, which had, as was stated, been procured at great expense, and a few drops only were sufficient to medicate a great quantity of water. The results of this fraud were truly wonderful. Health, cheerfulness and vigorous activity were the speedy effects. They boasted of being cured by the Prince's remedy, when all other remedies had been of no avail.

Dr. Haygarth observes, "The patient ought always to be inspired in the best manner possible with confidence in any remedy which is administered; but if a favorable opinion of it cannot be obtained, and especially if there be a marked prejudice against it, another though less powerful medicine should be preferred."

How often do we hear of the marvellous cures which are performed by the dexterous empiric. His medicines, though nearly powerless, are recommended with magnificent and unqualified promises, which so affect the weak and credulous that wonderful cures are the result—cures which the most scientific practitioner had failed to accomplish. Here the empiric too often receives the unqualified censure of the profession for calling into aid a class of remedies of the most powerful kind, to which the regular practitioner often attaches too little importance. When high hopes are held out to some persons, the mind is at once stimulated to new exertions—a new train of thoughts is exchanged for those of a morbid and monotonous character, and the physical system so sympathizes with the shock, that disease is driven from its empire, and health resumes its original throne.

After all that has been said in this article, there may be, and undoubtedly are, many individuals who are not susceptible of such changes in the physical system by the influence of the mind; and some even

may be incredulous how these important changes are effected by such influences alone. But such is the fact, as we have clearly seen; and though we can trace it from cause to effect, we cannot detect the silent operations in the process, and must rest satisfied with mere hypothesis as to the result, which each one is at liberty to frame for himself. We have a familiar example of instantaneous change in the bloodvessels of the face and neck, produced by sudden emotions of the mind; such as the blush of modesty and the paleness of fear. In blushing, the capillaries are suddenly engorged. The distention of vessels occurs in other organs to a much greater extent by voluptuous thoughts.

It is now understood that the action of mind is treated of as depending upon a physical organ; that organ is the brain, the great centre of the nervous system, from which all the nerves ultimately proceed. In their ramifications they may be considered as so many little messengers, carrying to and from the brain every sensation we realize. The command is given by the brain, and the mandate is instantly obeyed. It may well excite our wonder and admiration, to see how beautifully and inscrutably mind and matter are blended.

It may be a matter of honest inquiry by every medical man, after thus viewing the subject, how far he should attempt to influence his patient through the operations of the mind. It will not be my object to show whether a man may ever use deception or not—whether to do a greater good he may do once a little evil. The popular notion, however, is that a physician has this privilege, and would be justified on the same ground that a man would be who should snap his tobacco box in a dark night to alarm the highway robber. On the other hand, some of the most able divines contend that it is utterly opposed to the spirit of the divine law to do the least wrong that good may come; and here I might quote St. Paul to the same effect.

A physician may, however, promise his patients, in the strongest terms, that they will recover, with the same propriety that he administers cathartic medicine with a full assurance that it will operate as a cathartic, if he finds a like result—that is, if he finds that promises operate through the mind to cure diseases as uniformly as castor oil operates as physic, he is at liberty to use them as remedies, under a *judicious* administration.

The old maxim that drowning men catch at straws, is philosophically correct, and should admonish every practitioner of the importance of being circumspect in all his conduct while in the sick chamber. It is not uncommon for patients, however sick, to be found keenly alive in noticing every movement, and especially is this the case when the physician is present, in order to discover, if possible, either in his looks, actions or remarks, his views in relation to their case. Here the physician should be doubly on his guard, as the smallest affair will be very much magnified by a sick and enervated person; or it may be misconstrued.

Finally, a physician should study to make himself as interesting as possible to his patients, by kind looks and soothing expressions. In the examination and collecting of the symptoms, he should be familiar without being bold, attentive without affectation, complacent without ostenta-

tion, all which being blended with the judicious administration of medicines, he will often have the ineffable happiness to know that he has been instrumental in disarming disease of its power, and restoring health and happiness to the afflicted.

NOTICE OF THE WILLOUGHBY UNIVERSITY AND SOME OTHER MEDICAL COLLEGES.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dear Sir,—Now that I have returned again from the West, you will pardon me, I presume, if I give some account, in your Journal, of my tour, and of some of our medical schools.

Soon after my return from Dartmouth, where I gave a course of lectures upon medical botany and medical jurisprudence before a class of seventy-eight students, I set out for the University of Lake Erie, at Willoughby, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, with the medical department of which I am connected as Professor of Materia Medica, Pharmacy and Medical Jurisprudence. My journey was most delightful. I arrived at Cleveland on the ninth morning from my departure from Deerfield, in Massachusetts, a distance of about 650 miles. The autumn, up to the 25th of October, had been remarkably mild and warm, and it continued so till some time into November. The latter part of summer had been warm and sultry, and intermittent and other fevers had been much more common through the region of country which I traversed, than they had been for several years before. In particular I understood that fever and ague had been extremely prevalent along the whole northern shore of Lake Erie; and I was informed that the complaint prevailed almost as an epidemic throughout nearly the whole of the southwestern States. It also prevailed considerably in Cleveland, Willoughby, Painesville, and several other places in northern Ohio, which have heretofore been, and are now, as healthy as any places of their size in New England. The causes inducing intermittent fevers are now principally removed, and the Western Reserve, the Fire-lands, and many other parts of Ohio, are now as healthy as any part of the Union. A more sober, industrious and intelligent population can hardly be found in any section of our country, than that of those regions. The inhabitants are principally from New England.

Soon after my arrival at Willoughby, I understood that a greater number of applications had been made by students to attend the Medical College this year than last, notwithstanding the tremendous pressure in money matters at the West, which I have no doubt has restrained great numbers of students from attending our school this season. As it is, there was considerable gain in our ranks this year. Then we numbered forty. This year our catalogue will probably contain fifty or more, as students were coming in, even when I left, after a course of two or three lectures a day for nearly four weeks. In all the medical schools in which I have lectured, viz., at Berkshire, Fairfield, Hanover and Willoughby, where I have always had fine and highly interesting classes, I

have never met with one which appeared to be more intelligent and gentlemanlike than this. This certainly speaks highly in favor of Ohio, and of the other States in the Valley of the Mississippi which patronize this growing institution.

All the regular medical schools in the Valley, viz., the Ohio and Willoughby Medical Colleges, the Transylvania and Louisville in Kentucky, and the medical school at New Orleans, are destined to have a most important bearing upon the destinies and upon the lives and health of the inhabitants of this great basin, probably containing at this moment more than seven millions of inhabitants. Who that has reflected upon this subject for a moment, can doubt the necessity of these schools, located as they are, and acting, as I have reason to hope they do, in concert and harmony. There certainly appears to be no reason why they should quarrel with each other.

We have every reason to be satisfied with our school at Willoughby. Our location is as good as could be wished, as there is no other medical school west of us in the Union, none in Upper Canada, and none in New York nearer than Geneva, which is several hundred miles distant. The public, too, have abundant reason to be satisfied with the faculty of this College. Dr. Delamater has lectured with unbounded applause in at least seven of our highly respectable institutions, and he is at this moment connected as a professor with Dartmouth Medical College, Bowdoin Medical College, the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the Western District of New York, and the University of Willoughby. No man can be more popular with all his students than he is. He carries his own praise with him. Dr. Trowbridge is very extensively known as a surgeon in western New York, Upper Canada, Ohio and Michigan. He was the principal surgeon on the Upper Canada border, during the last war. He has published interesting cases in some of our Medical Journals, and he is accumulating facts in his common-place book, relating to some of the most important cases which have fallen under his observation, and particularly upon the diseases of the hip-joint, a new method of treatment for which he is about to promulgate. His name, also, gives popularity to the school. He is now settled at Painesville, Geauga County, Ohio, on the borders of Lake Erie, and he extends his ride over the Western Reserve and even farther. Dr. Ackly is a most indefatigable anatomist. His museum is good, and he gives great satisfaction to the class. Dr. Cassells is a graduate of the University of Glasgow, in Scotland. He has a fine apparatus, and he gives universal satisfaction. It affords me great pleasure to state that the cabinet of natural history is well fitted up. The minerals and the birds are in glass cases. We hope soon to have a specimen of every bird, animal, fish, &c., which is to be found in the western valley. Thus we have no fears of the success of this rising institution.

Without enumerating the names of the other eminent professors in the Ohio Medical College, that of Mussey is sufficient to guarantee the success of that school. The number of students there, I understand, is about 120. Although the practice of physic is not regulated by law in Ohio, yet the good sense of her physicians in establishing county medical societies, which will soon result in a State society, will refute the

obloquy which has been thrown upon her on this account. Even Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, two of the most erudite States in the Union, in medical lore, are in the same predicament with Ohio. They have no law regulating the practice of medicine.

Transylvania School, at Lexington, Kentucky, has long stood, in point of numbers, at the head of all the medical schools west of the Alleganies. With such a faculty as she now sustains, she will long retain her proud pre-eminence. The number of her students, I understand, is 240. Dr. Drake alone has talents sufficient to sustain the Medical School at Louisville. She now numbers 180 students. I am not personally acquainted with the professors at New Orleans, but I understand they are men of eminence, and that the medical school there is well sustained. With such prospects and encouragements, what is to prevent the great west from rivalling her older and richer sisters of the east. Their motto is from David Crockett, "Go ahead."

On my return, while in the neighborhood of Geneva, I was informed by a physician that the number of students at that medical college was about 70. I will not vouch for the correctness of this statement. The number of students in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Fairfield, I understand, was 116. While at Albany I called upon my friend Dr. T. R. Beck, of that College. He is collecting statistics of all the medical schools in the Union, and giving the numbers of the students who have attended lectures in the different medical colleges in the United States for the last ten or more years, and the number of all who have graduated. It will be a most interesting document, when finished. He gave me his printed notes as far as he has completed them, for which I feel under great obligation to him. He has published his list for thirteen schools, and he has matter on hand for many more. I called also, while at Albany, at the Albany Medical College, and was very politely treated by Drs. March and Armsby, two of the professors in that school. Dr. Armsby showed me the anatomical museum, containing many of the new German preparations of the brain, eye, ear, neck, &c., of porcelain and wax, which were certainly very correct and beautiful. The other parts of the museum, and the cabinet of natural history, were extensive. I attended part of a lecture from Dr. March, and should judge there were 80 or 90 students, perhaps more, and perhaps less.

I have just received a catalogue of the Geneva Medical College, from Dr. Coventry, by which it appears that 87 medical students attended the course the present session. From a notice in the Saturday Evening Post, it appears that there are 450 medical students attending medical lectures in the University of Pennsylvania. From a correspondent, a professor in the Medical College at New York, I understand that that college is flourishing—the number of students about 100. Your Journal, Sir, if I rightly recollect, mentioned that the Berkshire Medical Institution had about 50 on its catalogue. The number at Boston, I understand, is 74. I am expecting soon to hear from Philadelphia and the South, when I hope the list will be pretty full for this year.

Very respectfully yours,

Deerfield, Jan. 16, 1840. STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS.

PECULIAR CASE OF ENTERITIS—IMPERFORATE RECTUM.

At a late meeting of the Kappa Lambda Society, of New York, Dr. Hoffman presented the following interesting account of a case, in which strangulation had taken place in a portion of the ileum, producing such complete obstruction that the fluid contained in the upper portion could not be made to pass into that below, and exhibited the morbid specimen illustrating the case.

At 9, P. M., Saturday, June 12, 1839, was called to visit, in consultation with Dr. Green, a Captain F., who had arrived here from a port in Massachusetts a few days previously, in a brig under his command, and in good health. I learned that his bowels had been freely opened on Thursday morning, and that, in the afternoon of that day, he had been seized, without any assignable cause, with a severe pain in the right iliac region, which continued, with occasional vomiting, during the night, and that on Friday he sent for Dr. Green, who, with the intention of evacuating the bowels, had had recourse to bleeding, calomel, tobacco, and other injections, croton and castor oil, but without effect; and that about an hour before my visit, he had used a vapor bath, by seating the patient over a tub of warm water into which heated bricks were immersed, which had induced a general and free perspiration, with mitigation of the pain. Some of the calomel and the last two doses of castor oil had been retained on the stomach, and *after ascertaining that no hernial protrusion* existed to account for the symptoms, we agreed to leave the patient undisturbed, and to see him again in two hours (at 11 o'clock). After this interval, the medicine had not operated per anum; the vomiting had recurred, and the distressing pain of which he complained was referred more especially to the epigastric region, which, with the abdomen generally, was hard and sensible to the touch; pulse frequent and tense, respiration anxious, face suffused and of mahogany color; feverish heat of skin, thirst, with a preference for hot drinks, with feelings of great prostration of strength and restlessness. Apprehending inflammation of the peritoneal coat of the intestines, and the patient being of middle age, good constitution, and temperate habits, venesection was repeated, and was borne, while sitting up, to the extent of from 24 to 30 ounces, before any decided effect was produced on the pulse. To relax the bowels, calomel and ipecac. in 10 gr. doses, were directed to be taken every two hours during the night. The following morning (Sunday) we found that our patient had had some sleep, had vomited less frequently, and had retained three doses of the medicine. There was less heat of skin, but increased frequency of pulse; the bowels still locked up, tense, and tender to the touch. Eighteen leeches were directed to the epigastric region, to be followed by a warm poultice. Twenty grains of calomel, two drops of croton oil, infusion of senna in small doses frequently repeated, copious enemata of tepid water, and of strong infusion of senna, and tobacco injections, were resorted to during the day and evening, without procuring any fæcal discharge. He now expressed a wish for cold in preference to hot drinks, and ice was prescribed, and taken with avidity. At bed-time, an epispastic was

ordered to be applied to the region of the stomach, and a suppository of 10 grs. of good extract of stramonium was introduced into the rectum. Divided doses of Seidlitz powders were directed to be given during the night, and brandy and water, if the skin became cold. At 6, A. M., on Monday morning, we learnt that he had vomited frequently during the night, that no discharge had taken place from the bowels, and we found him sinking with symptoms of gangrene of the bowels, without having had any fæcal discharge from the commencement of the attack; the vomiting was not stercoraceous. He died at 8, A. M., the same day.

Autopsy, four hours after death: abdomen incompressibly hard, and not very tumid; a thick layer of adipose substance covered the abdominal muscles, which were rigid and deeply colored. On incising the peritoneum, a bloody serum flowed out, and the small intestines protruded forcibly, presenting a dark-red appearance. On exposing the cavity, the omentum was found contracted; the transverse colon and stomach entirely concealed by the distention of the small intestines, and forced into close contact with the diaphragm, which reached up to the 4th rib. The stomach contained very little fluid, but the jejunum and ileum were enormously distended with a stercoraceous fluid. On tracing and laying them aside, a strangulation in a portion of the ileum was found in the right iliac fossa, appearing as if a knot had been tied in the intestine, and the obstruction was so complete that the fluid contained in the upper portion could not be made to pass into that below. A membranous band, resembling in its texture the mesentery, about 2½ inches in length, extended from the anterior face of the colon just above its valve, and connected itself with the surface of the ileum, opposite to the attachment of the mesentery to that bowel, and beneath this, a duplicature of the ileum had passed and become strangulated as in hernia, causing approaching gangrene and the death of the patient.

Imperforate Rectum.—Dr. Hoffman also read the following case, in which he operated with success.

On the 9th inst., was called on by the family physician to visit a male infant of Mrs. P. He informed me that the child was born on the Thursday preceding, and had not had any discharge from the bowels; that the anus existed, and was pervious to about half an inch, and the rectum closed, so as to prevent the passage of a probe or bougie, or any fluid injection. I found the belly swelled, and the child crying, as if in much distress, and vomiting frequently. With the extremity of the finger introduced into the anus, a complete septum could be felt, but no impression was made on the finger by the straining efforts of the child, which made it more doubtful if an incision or puncture could remove the obstacle. A trocar used for paracentesis was guided by the end of the finger and carried upwards and a little backwards for an inch or more, when the resistance ceased, and the stilet was withdrawn, tinged with meconium. The canula was then carried fully up, and meconium discharged through it. The pipe of a glyster syringe was now introduced, and some cold water injected, which was followed by a copious discharge. There was very little blood lost, and no very unpleasant symptoms followed. The child is thriving and in good health.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

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BOSTON, FEBRUARY 5, 1840.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE U. S. ARMY.

The Surgeon General, Thomas Lawson, M.D., in his late report to the Secretary of War, which, with a multitude of other documents relating to the army, &c., accompanies the late message of the President, and was communicated to Congress, is a very concise and plain spoken paper, though wholly destitute of flattering unction towards the medical institutions of the country. If some of the young graduates are lightly esteemed for their scientific acquirements, those who control the schools from whence their honors were derived, must wince under the severity of this public functionary's critique upon the ready mode of manufacturing doctors in "every town, village, and cross-road place, throughout our States and Territories." The following is an extract from the report.

"The facilities of acquiring medical knowledge, or rather of becoming professional men, are so great, that many persons are seduced into an attempt to become physicians, without the basis of an education. There are others, again, who having received a good primary education, and also passed through a regular classical or collegiate course (and thereby rendered qualified for scientific pursuits), are induced from motives of economy and convenience, or with the view of sustaining institutions of their own State, to enter some of the small medical schools, where they cannot possibly have the advantages of anatomical instruction (the ground work of the profession), or the means of clinical instructions upon an extended scale. A knowledge of the science of medicine is not, like divinity and law, to be acquired by reading books in the closet, and listening to the reading of a course or two of lectures; it can only be attained by seeing and feeling, in connection with the knowledge acquired from books.

"The great multiplication of medical schools in every section of the country, together with the proverbial facilities of becoming licensed practitioners, has so lowered the standard of professional excellence, and so manifestly degraded the medical character of the United States, that the present system will be, it is to be hoped, by a more enlightened public opinion ere long put down. The interest of the country is so much divided by these various institutions, and the patronage to each is consequently so small, that many of our ablest medical men will not accept places in them; were it practicable, however, for the professors to obtain adequate compensation for their services, it would be impossible to find professional men enough of talents and attainments to occupy the several chairs in the innumerable medical schools in every town, village, and cross-road place, throughout our States and Territories."

This will answer for a beginning. The statistical parts of Dr. Lawson's report are particularly valuable; but we cannot find room for extended extracts in the pages of the Journal. He does not believe a word about the terrible destruction of human life in Florida, by the scourge of a pestilential climate, which we have been taught was the case by the public press. These are the Surgeon General's own words:

"From our observations it is found that the troops which have taken

the field from southern stations, have suffered less from sickness, and lost fewer men by disease, since they came into Florida than while they were stationary at their posts. Nor have the corps from the North suffered from disease and death to the extent that is generally believed.

"The reports in this office, from every section of the United States, show this result; and as I am satisfied with the fact, I deem it to be my duty to correct an error of opinion that seems to pervade the country to the manifest injury of the military service."

The following items, relating to the sickness in the army in 1839, will be found interesting.

"The number of cases of indisposition which have been under treatment by the medical officers of the army and private physicians temporarily in the service of the United States, during the last twelve months, was 22,849; 22,248 of which occurred within the past year; 649 being cases that remained of the preceding year. Of the whole number of persons reported sick, 21,940 have been restored to duty, 131 have been discharged the service, 55 have deserted, and 214 have died; leaving, on the 30th of September, 1839, 909 still on the sick report.

"From the monthly returns and other reports it is estimated that the aggregate mean strength of the army for the last year was 8,950; and as the number taken sick during the year was 22,248, and the aggregate of deaths was 214, it will appear that the proportion of cases of disease to the number of men in service was as 2½ to 1, or 249 per cent.; the ratio of deaths to the number of men as 1 to 42, or 2 4-10 per cent.; and the proportion of deaths to the number of cases treated as 1 to 107, or a fraction less than 1 per cent."

It appears that, with characteristic industry, Dr. Lawson is preparing a report on the vital statistics of the army, and the medical topography of the military stations, extending back for twenty years, which will be put to press, should their publication be required by Congress or by the War Department.

Dr. Hamilton's Introductory Lecture.—Those who read this Journal will recollect the notices which have been given, from time to time, of the medico-literary productions of Dr. Hamilton, of Auburn, N. Y., who, the last season, was elected to the chair of surgery in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Fairfield.

Within a few days a copy of the introductory discourse delivered by him at the opening of the present lecture term in that institution, has been received. Most of Dr. Hamilton's writings have been characterized by a peculiar terseness and originality of thought, which never failed to delight those who were so fortunate as to get possession of them. This pamphlet, however, is wholly unlike the doctor—we do not recognize a single expression characteristic of the man. That energy and vivacity which were the charm of his former productions, are here altogether wanting. And yet, as an historical essay, it is quite unexceptionable. It is a complete catalogue of American Surgeons, from Dr. Walter Russel, who in 1608 accompanied Capt. John Smith up the Potomac, down to names of no immortality in the annals of surgery, of the present day. Perhaps an introductory of this kind was the most appropriate and useful to a class of medical students, from the department of surgery; but we confess ourselves somewhat disappointed in not discovering, page after page, as expected, bold figures, brilliant conceptions and striking illustrations.

In these remarks we are certainly not influenced by a jealous disposition, or a single feeling of unkindness, for we unhesitatingly declare ourselves one of the warmest of Dr. Hamilton's admirers. All is, had he launched out into open sea in his accustomed manner, without the embarrassing recollection that a corporation was on board, we verily believe Dr. H. would again have shown himself equal to any undertaking within the boundaries of that science of which he is a distinguished ornament.

Health Office of New York.—A. Sidney Doane, M.D., formerly of Boston, has been appointed by Gov. Seward, Health Officer of the city of New York, which is probably the most lucrative medical appointment in the United States. Dr. Doane is eminently well qualified for the station—and with regard to varied high professional attainments, he is not surpassed by any man of his age in this country. Profitable as the office is acknowledged to be to the incumbent, we look upon it as a sacrifice on the part of Dr. Doane, who could not have failed to have realized, ultimately, in the city of New York, where he was fully appreciated, a circle of practice, the value of which would have been altogether greater than the income of the department in which his services are secured for the next three years.

Medical Institution of Yale College.—The annual examination of candidates for medical degrees and licenses was held in New Haven, at the close of the course of Lectures in the Medical Institution of Yale College. Of the Board of Examiners there were present, on the part of the Connecticut Medical Society, Silas Fuller, M.D., President of the Connecticut Medical Society, and ex officio President of the Board; Thomas Miner, M.D.; Luther Ticknor, M.D.; Dyar T. Brainard, M.D., and Earl Swift, M.D.;—and on the part of the College, the Professors in the Medical Institution. Dr. Brainard, a member of the Board, delivered an able and interesting address to the candidates, on Tuesday, the 21st ult., in presence of a crowded audience of ladies and gentlemen, comprising many distinguished citizens. The examination was continued during the three following days; when fifteen young gentlemen, who had attended at least two courses of lectures, and on examination were found worthy of the Degree of Doctor in Medicine, were admitted to this degree by the President of Yale College; and three who had attended one course of lectures, and on examination were found qualified for licenses to practise physic and surgery, received diplomas from the President of the Medical Society.

Graduates.—Francis Augustus Brewster, Hampton, Ct., *On the Theory of Disease.* Wm. Conant Catlin, Bethlem, Ct., *On Variola.* Wm. Brintnall De Forest, New Haven, Ct., *On the Morbific Influence of the Depressing Passions.* Francis Lemuel Dickinson, Colchester, Ct., *On Digitalis Purpurea.* Myron Reed Hubbard, Salisbury, Ct., *On Infantile Remittent Fever.* James Howard Hutchins, Pomfret, Ct., *On Traumatic Hemorrhage.* Pliny Adams Jewett, New Haven, Ct., *On Contraction of the Chest, consequent to internal disease.* James Edward Fisher Macdonough, New Haven, Ct., *On Diervilla Tournefortii.* Edmund Randolph Peaselee, Hanover, N. H., *On Uniformity of Temperature as a Remedy and Prophylactic.* Felippe Franco De Sa, Brazil, S. America, *On Intermittent Fever.* Azariah Smith, Jr., Manlius, N. Y., *On the physical signs of Diseases of the Chest.* Samuel Gilbert Smith, Mt. Washington, Mass., *On Scrofula.* Louis Watson, East Windsor, Ct., *On the*

Efficacy of Strong Impressions. Daniel Webb, Buffalo, N. Y., *On Delirium Tremens.* Francke Williams, Hartford, Ct., *On Uterine Hemorrhage.*

Licentiates.—Moses Botsford Beers, Newtown, Ct., *On Digestion.* John Craig, Rochester, N. Y., *On the Cyanuret of Potassium.* Cornelius Hanford Schaps, Brooklyn, N. Y., *On Arthrodynia.*

Dental Science.—A dentist, of considerable eminence, in speaking of the American Journal of Dental Science, the other day, said that "there was too much pap in it." The inference probably was, that the editors were dealing too much in the elementary matters of the profession. Those who understand the mysteries of the dental art, know more about the value of this observation than ourselves. We have always considered it exceedingly creditable to the enterprise of the editors, Dr. Harris, of Baltimore, and Mr. Parmly, of New York, that they should succeed so well in a matter so novel in this country as the maintenance of a journal wholly devoted to the service of dental operators. If it is not precisely what each one would have it, the most certain method of improvement would be for each member of the craft to contribute liberally to its pages.

Medical Miscellany.—The whole number of deaths by smallpox in this city up to Saturday last, the 1st inst., was 99.—Dr. Lewis amputated the leg of the boy, at Charlestown, Mass., whose case was detailed in this Journal some months since; and on examination of the part after the operation, came to the conclusion that the disease was a malignant fungoid tumor.—Dr. Birch, a superintending medical officer of the East India Company's service, in a topographical report on the Neilgherries, a distant mountain race of people, in speaking of the chicken pox, to which they are subject, says that "only one symptom appeared, which is not noticed in medical works, viz., pustules on the tongue, protruding like enormous red papillæ, through a thick white coat of fur on the surface."—In the course of one year after Mr. Brett, the surgeon, arrived in Calcutta, he established a hospital in which several thousand operations were performed —and some of them were never surpassed in importance in any part of the world. So much for individual enterprize.—Dr. Stribling, of Staunton, Virginia, late Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum in that place, was stabbed on the 15th, by an insane man belonging to the institution, and had the main artery, say the papers, completely severed. The vessel was taken up, by a surgeon, immediately, and the doctor is hopefully recovering.—Two vessels have arrived at New Orleans, from Boston, having the smallpox on board. The disease has also appeared in Illinois. It prevails at Chicago, St. Charles, and Napierville.—Scarlet fever is represented as alarmingly rife at Philadelphia.—The mortality in Boston, in 1839, according to the report in our last No. was nearly 1 in 43—last year about the same; in Nantucket, in 1839, 1 in 50; in Concord, N. H., 1 in 67; in Salem, 1 in 80. In Exeter, N. H. (population, in 1830, 2759) deaths the last year 30; 7 only under 10 years, and 8 over 70 years. Dr. Alcott rates the average annual mortality in N. England, as 1 in 41: the average of the above, embracing city and country, is 1 in 60.—On p. 375 of this Journal, for Dr. *Daniel* D. Wilcox, read *David.*

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending February 1, 44. Males, 24—females, 20.

Of consumption, 9—smallpox, 19—lung fever, 2—intemperance, 3—canker in the bowels, 1—old age, 2—infantile, 3—child-bed, 1—convulsions, 1—drowned, 1—dropsy on the chest, 1—cancer, 1—liver complaint, 1—brain fever, 1—disease of the heart, 1—scalded, 1—varioloid, 1—marasmus, 3—stillborn, 3.

VERMONT MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The next annual course of Lectures at this Institution, will commence on the second Thursday of March next, and continue thirteen weeks.

Chemistry and Materia Medica, by David Palmer, M.D.
Theory and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics, by Henry H. Childs, M.D.
General and Special Anatomy and Physiology, by Robert Watts, Jr., M.D.
Principles and Practice of Surgery, by Gilman Kimball, M.D.
Medical Jurisprudence, by Hon. Jacob Collamer, A.M.
Pathological Anatomy, by Robert Watts, Jr, M.D.
Demonstrator of Anatomy, Samuel W. Thayer, Jr., M.D.

Terms for the course, $50.—Graduation, $18.—For those who have attended two courses, but do not graduate, $10. All the above expenses to be paid in advance, or secured by note, with a satisfactory endorser, to David Peirce, Esq., Treasurer of the Institution. Board may always be obtained in this village, on reasonable terms.

The new edifice, with large, convenient, and comfortable lecture rooms, will be in readiness for the reception of the class the next term.

By order of the Board of Trustees,

Woodstock, Vt., Jan. 8, 1840. J. 8—eoptM15 N. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The subscribers, at their private medical school in Tremont street, offer the following facilities to professional students.

A daily attendance at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and at the Eye and Ear Infirmary, with frequent opportunities of seeing cases, and surgical operations, in private practice, and in the public dispensaries. Arrangements have been made for affording obstetric practice to a considerable extent under the superintendence of the instructers.

A regular system of instruction by means of lectures and examinations in all the branches of the profession will be pursued throughout the year.

Anatomy.—Recitations heard by Drs. Reynolds and Holmes. A course of lectures on Surgical Anatomy by Dr. Holmes. Demonstrations and Dissections.

Surgery.—A complete course of eighty lectures, including diseases of the Eye and Ear, by Dr. Reynolds.

Chemistry.—Recitations and instructions by Dr. Storer.

Physiology and Pathology.—Lectures and recitations by Dr. Holmes, including a special course on Auscultation and Percussion.

Midwifery.—Lectures and recitations by Dr. Storer, with practical instruction on the application of obstetrical instruments upon the machine or model.

Theory and Practice of Medicine, Clinical Instruction, and Materia Medica, under the superintendence of Dr. Bigelow.

JACOB BIGELOW,
EDWARD REYNOLDS,
D. HUMPHREYS STORER,
OLIVER W. HOLMES.

Boston, Nov. 20, 1839. ep1meop6m

MEDICAL TUITION.

The subscribers offer the following advantages to medical students.

Students will be allowed free access at all hours to the United States' Marine Hospital at Chelsea, and will be permitted to examine and make records of all the cases that occur there. On an average there are at least sixty patients at the institution. Dr. Stedman will make a daily morning visit, and Drs. Perry, Bowditch and Wiley will, in turn, visit two afternoons every week, from March 1st to October 31st, for the purpose of clinical observation with the students. Dr. Bowditch will deliver a course of lectures upon diseases of the chest, with especial reference to the physical signs.

In addition to the above, admission will be granted to the medical and surgical visits at the Massachusetts General Hospital; to the Infirmary for Diseases of the Lungs; to the practice of one of the Dispensary districts, and to the Smallpox Hospital. Abundant opportunities for dissections and operative surgery, and occasionally for the pratice of midwifery.

Regular courses of instruction will be given as follows:—

On Anatomy and Medical Jurisprudence, by	Dr. Smith.
Surgery, by	Dr. Stedman.
Theory and Practice of Medicine, by	Dr. Perry.
Midwifery, Diseases of the Chest, and Demonstrations on Morbid Anatomy, at the Hospitals, by	Dr. Bowditch.
Materia Medica and Chemistry, by	Dr. Wiley.

Rooms for study, either at Boston or Chelsea, free of expense. For terms, apply to H. G. Wiley, or to either of the subscribers.

M. S. PERRY, C. H. STEDMAN, H. G. WILEY,
H. I. BOWDITCH, J. V. C. SMITH.

Jan. 29—ep1meoptf

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